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CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter *June 1989*

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION

As part of the nationwide Public Service Recognition Week, May 1-7, 1989, SC employees were asked to nominate co-workers for special citations. The categories were for excellent work performance, counseling others, community service, and creating a pleasant work environment. Three people had to concur in each nomination.

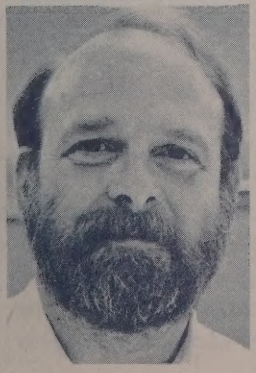
Seventeen individuals and a group of four employees were nominated for this honor. Bob Moore, SC Director, and Deputy SCDs Brian Bernard and Pete Pedersen presented the certificates of acknowledgement at a meeting on May 3.

The following narratives highlight the award recipients.

Elaine Watson

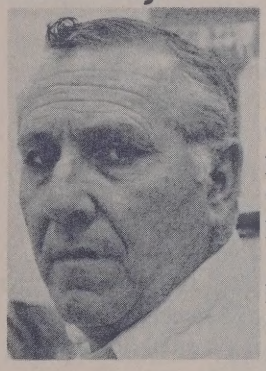
For her effort in training and assisting a dozen people in operating a newly installed LAN, Elaine was cited by three of her co-workers. She is the budget officer on the Program, Budget, and Evaluation Staff. She initially came to the SC as a secretary 10 years ago. Her previous jobs were with the Colorado SO and a number of assignments with the Department of the Army throughout the country. Elaine is a native Texan, you all.

Rhio Jackson



Working after hours on briefings and projects, developing good ideas for solving sensitive issues, and creating a positive atmosphere in stressful situations were reasons given for Rhio's nomination. He works in the Branch of Resources as a surface protection specialist. Prior to his SC assignment, Rhio worked at the Colorado State Office in surface protection and range conservation.

Allen Layer



Al was cited for his extraordinary support of the blood donor program. His donation of 243 pints of blood won him first prize over 240 other participants in a recent contest sponsored by the *National Enquirer* newspaper. He began this remarkable effort after the Korean War, during which he had received 30 pints of blood for wounds he sustained. Al worked for MMS in Reston, Virginia prior to moving to Denver. Al is a computer assistant with the Branch of Computer Applications.

Linda Hill

Linda was nominated for her consistently excellent work, her willingness to pitch in when tight deadlines occur, and her contributions toward creating a positive work atmosphere. She is an editorial assistant on the Technology Transfer Staff, having transferred there this year from the SC Director's Staff. Prior to joining BLM, Linda worked for the Bureau of Reclamation. She has a degree in Journalism from CSU, so she is glad to be on a staff where her skills can be utilized.

Jim Biltz, Colleen Ireland Don Johnson, Arnie Phillips

Jim Biltz, Colleen Ireland, Arnie Phillips

The Software Quartet (they work in the Software Section, Branch of Computer Operations) was cited for their conscientious work and their willingness and helpfulness in solving problems with personal computers and local area networks at the SC.

Jim (left) has been at the SC almost 10 years. He worked for the State of Colorado prior to that. He first learned computers in the Navy (although technically they were electronic accounting machines). He has been in ADP since 1958, which makes him one of the graybeards in this field at the SC.

Colleen (center) is relatively new to the SC and this field, but has picked up the new knowledge quickly. She was trained in college as a biologist and worked at the Colorado State Office and in Durango at the San Juan Resource Area before coming to the SC.

Don is another veteran of the ADP wars. Before coming to the SC he was the lead ADP specialist for the Montana State Office. Previously he worked in ADP for the U.S. Forest Service in Ogden, Utah, where he began as a work study employee while enrolled at Weber State College.

Arnie (right) is the new kid on the block. He has been at the SC less than a year. He worked for UNISYS and previously operated his own business. Commuting daily from Ft. Collins may be tedious, but it beats fighting the traffic and the weather in Chicago.

Joe Rasmussen

Joe's nomination cited his excellent work, his volunteer work in the community, and the time he takes to provide counsel to fellow employees. His skill with a variety of software systems has been helpful to people throughout the SC. Joe is a mining engineer in the Branch of Resources. Before coming to the SC, he worked in the New Mexico State Office, and prior to that, for USGS.

Mike Marchase

Mike works well under pressure, contributes extra hours to complete projects, and has a friendly, cooperative demeanor that makes the office a nicer place to work. He is a cartographer in the Branch of Mapping. Before coming to the SC, he worked as a cartographic technician at the Colorado State Office. And before life with BLM, he was a surveyor for the National Park Service. If you are planning a tour of the nation's park system, Mike can refer you to noteworthy trees and rocks.

Nathan Matthews

"Nate the Great" is cited for his efforts in engendering a pleasant atmosphere at the SC. He has spent time managing one of the two SC softball teams, has been active in promoting the annual picnic, and cheerfully helps out wherever he is needed. Nathan moved to Denver in 1980 from New York City, where he had worked in a commercial photo lab. In fact, he and Sol Katz may be the only two Brooklynites at the SC. Nate is a microform equipment operator in the Branch of Micrographics.

Jim Muhn

Jim's nomination was based on the excellent work he did in compiling the BLM history *Opportunity and Challenge, The Story of BLM*. His research of the public land laws has been invaluable to the Justice Department in their prosecution of recent cases before the courts. In addition, he was cited for being pleasant to work with and for helping create a good working environment. Jim works as a land law historian in the Branch of Records, Directives, and Library, having transferred here from a similar position in the Montana State Office.

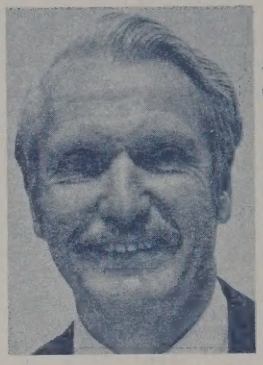
Verna Glasmann

The nomination of Verna reads in part: "Her energy, compassion, flexibility, sense of humor, knowledge, and untiring hard work stand as an excellent example of dedicated public service. She has kept morale high through many difficult times and enabled each of us to do our best." Verna is a supervisory accountant in the Data Control Section. She has almost 14 years with BLM split between two tours of duty. Her first job, in 1964, was to type a list of all BLM employees who were to receive paychecks each pay period. Verna appreciates the advent of computers more than most.

Tom Jatko

Tom is a civil engineer with the Branch of Engineering Services. He was cited for producing top-quality work, for his assistance to others regarding software problems, and for his volunteer efforts in the community. Tom plays violin in two community orchestras, the Aurora Symphony and the Centennial Philharmonic. He is a multi-gallon blood donor and coaches a girl's softball team. Before coming to BLM, he managed buildings and grounds at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital. Prior to that he worked for an oil company in Saudi Arabia.

Herb Anderson

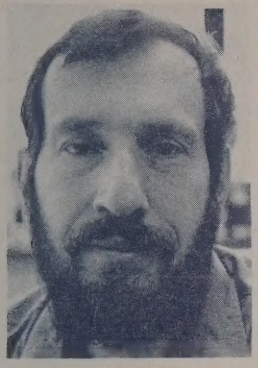


Two different groups of employees nominated Herb, a testimony to the high regard in which he is held. In addition to his excellent work, for which he has often been rewarded, he was cited for his counsel to a number of employees. His background as a pastor makes him an excellent counselor. His upbeat, cheerful personality and his empathy and understanding have helped many of the staff through stressful personal and professional crises. Herb also skis and plays on a SC softball team. He is the secretary for the Branch of Modernization Functional Requirements.

Mike Thompson

Mike supervises the Branch of Target Systems Data Administration. He was nominated for his high level of dedication to the Bureau. He is usually the first at work in the morning and the last to leave each night. He has been especially helpful to data administrators in field offices. After graduating from Colorado State University in range and forestry, he worked in the Vernal, Utah District. He spent time in the Peninsula RA of the Anchorage, Alaska District where he administered grazing agreements on islands from Ketchikan to the Aleutians. Before coming to the SC he was a realty specialist in the Kingman, Arizona RA working on land exchanges.

Sol Katz



Sol supervises the Quality Control Staff in the Branch of Interim LIS Management. Through his initiative, formal quality assurance and quality control procedures for LIS were established. As a geologist, he is recognized as an authority on the use of geographic information systems for minerals. He is currently chairman of the National Geotech Conference meeting in Denver, a group from which he has received awards in past years. Sol was an early graduate of the Bureau's Lands and Minerals School in Phoenix. He worked in the Socorro District prior to his tenure at the SC.

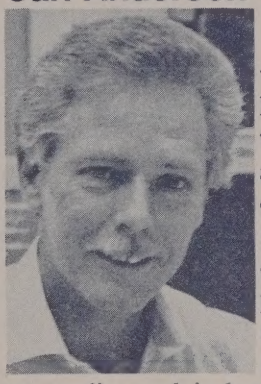
Margaret Trujillo

Margaret is the secretary for the Biological Resources Section. Her citation was based on her consistently excellent work, her skill in creating a great work environment, and the fact she is pleasant to be around. She began her Federal employment nine years ago under the stay-in-school program with the Bureau of Mines. She also worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission prior to coming to BLM 3-1/2 years ago.

Lee Krebs

Lee, a property management specialist in the Branch of Personal Property, was cited for work with the SC Santa Claus project. Since she initiated the project, it has provided food, clothing, and toys to more than 130 needy people in Jefferson County. She is currently president of the SC social committee and is active in church work. Before coming to BLM in 1977, she and her mother ran a gift shop in Rapid City, South Dakota. Lee loves traveling and has been to Hawaii and on an Alaskan cruise.

Carl Anderson



Carl supervises the Printed Materials Distribution Section. His award was based on the positive attitude he always displays in getting printing jobs done expeditiously. He also ensures that top-quality work is done by contract printers. Carl got into the printing trade as an on-board ship printer in the U.S. Navy. He subsequently worked at Ent AFB in Colorado Springs and for GPO at the Federal Center. Carl played on a SC softball team before autumn replaced the spring in his legs. He has raced cars (stock and drag) but now prefers fishing and boating (which probably makes his wife happier, too).

John Greene

John is a cartographer in the Branch of Mapping. He was cited by fellow employees for his willingness to assist others, especially those new to mapping at the SC. John has been at the SC since 1965 when he transferred here from the Area Office (now State Office) in Reno, Nevada. Needless to say, he has seen many changes in mapping techniques, culminating in the digital processes now employed at the SC. John, too, was a heavy hitting outfielder on the SC softball teams of the 1960s and 1970s before the autumn/spring affliction (note Anderson item).

Congratulations
to all of the recipients—
recognition from one's co-workers
carries special regard.

THRIFTY

At a recent BLM retirement seminar, a financial planner said that the best investment available to most of us is the Thrift Plan.

This program is a part of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), but it is available to all of us in a modified form. The key difference is that the Federal government will not match your contribution as they do under FERS. A second difference is that the money must be invested in the government securities fund rather than the other two funds available to FERS employees.

Two examples will illustrate why this feature is valuable. If an employee making $16,000 per year would invest the maximum amount of salary (5%) for a period of 30 years, yielding 9% interest (the current G fund rate), the account would grow to $122,000. Under the same circumstances, a person making $30,000 per year would accrue $229,000.

Add a little more sweetener—the money contributed is excluded from income taxation until the money is withdrawn beginning at retirement. In these two examples, with a 15% tax rate, the additional savings would be $120 and $225 per year.

The bottom line—the interest earned and the tax savings combined—represents an investment return of 24%. A little better than the old cookie jar or the 7% savings account.

If you are interested in exploring the subject further, there is an open season through July. Check with Lynne Price in Personnel for more information.

HISTORY BLOOPER

Taken from a student examination paper: "Without the Greeks we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns—Corinthian, Doric, and Ironic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the R iver Stynx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in the Illiad by Homer. Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship thatUlysses endured on this journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer, but by another man of that name. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock."

PHOTO CONTEST

Center Scene proudly announces the first annual Service Center photo contest. The contest opened June 1st and will conclude July 15th.

Entries will be classified in two categories: those depicting work being performed and those of general interest.

The first category can include a field project or a person or group of people at work at the SC.

The second category can include any subject: a family member, a mountain scene, a vacation highlight — let your imagination soar.

Entrants must be SC employees. Either color or black-and-white photos may be entered. They will be judged on the basis of imagery and the quality of the photo. Label the back of the photo with your name and organization and it will be returned. Please limit entries to no more than two per person and submit only those taken during 1989.

While no prizes will be awarded (after all, the game's the thing) the first, second, and third prize winning submissions will be displayed inside the south entryway of Building 50. Entries should be left with Linda Hill at SC-140. Who knows, there may be another Ansel Adams lurking out there in the bureaucracy.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Six months after her departure, the Bureau of Reclamation tracked down Karen Cochran, now a contracting officer at BLM, to give her a Special Achievement Award for her skill in managing a visual communication services contract.

Remember the BLM picnic, June 16, 3:00 p.m. on the south side of building 40. Food, games, and fun for everyone from 7 to 70.

NEWS RELEASE

On April 25th, BLM hosted the second national minerals seminar in Lakewood for the Minerals Management Service (MMS). This seminar, which attracted approximately 100 participants, focused on solid leasable minerals. The purpose of this conference was to provide MMS staffs an enhanced understanding of BLM's leasing and operational policies and procedures, especially as they relate to BLM/MMS interfaces and data exchange. A slate of expert presenters from BLM discussed a variety of subjects.

Bob Leopold

Jerry Hill, MMS's Associate Director for Royalty Management, and Adam Sokoloski, BLM's Deputy Assistant Director, Energy and Mineral Resources/Solids, opened the conference. Paul Politzer, Chief, Washington Office Division of Solid Minerals Operations, presented an overview of laws, regulations, and directives. Bob Leopold, Chief, SC Division of Data Management, led a group made up of Janet Madson, SC Systems Implementation Specialist, Carmen Gomes, SC Management Analyst, John Craynon, Washington Office Mining Engineer, and Joe Rasmussen, SC Mining Engineer, in a discussion of our information resource management efforts. Alexa Watson, Colorado State Office Land Law Examiner, and Jim Edwards, Colorado State Office Chief, Branch of Mining Law and Solid Minerals, explained BLM's solid minerals leasing procedures. Edwards also led discussions concerning initial discovery and royalty rates. John Craynon outlined our policy and procedures for the handling of proprietary data and confidential information. George DaBai, Chief, Branch of Mining Law and Solid Minerals, California State Office, Jim Edwards, and Paul Politzer covered royalty rates for coal and other solid leasable minerals. Jerry Strahan and Charlie Beecham, Craig and Montrose District Office Mining Engineers, discussed inspection and enforcement and logical mining units. Finally, Tom Brozovich, Chief, Section 1, MMS Reference Data Branch, provided an overview of MMS's solid minerals organization structure.

The Service Center received positive feedback from MMS that showed we again enhanced our working relationships and created a better understanding of roles.

Plans are being made to host more specialized solid minerals seminars for MMS's Royalty Compliance Division later this year in Lakewood, Dallas, and Houston.

CONSERVATION BLESSING

Blessed are they who plant the long-lived trees and shrubs, for generations shall rise up and call them blessed.

Blessed are they who are owners of flower gardens, for in the heart of a flower may be seen in its Creator.

Blessed are they who clean up the highways, byways, and home grounds, for cleanliness is next to godliness.

Blessed are they who war on signs and banish the billboards along the rural highways, for they shall be called the protectors of roadside beauty and landscape scenery.

Blessed are they who stand against friend and relative in protection of nature's gifts, for they shall be recognized as true patriots of the earth.

Blessed are the towns with planning boards, for great beauty, prosperity, and peace shall descend upon them.

Great shall be the reward of those who protect our forests from fire, for the birds shall continue to serve them and the fish and wild animals to furnish them food.

They who conserve our natural resources serve themselves and the generations following.

Anonymous—
Catholic Digest

My neighbor built a circular drive, Now he can't get out.